

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /102 W
-----232224Z 112907 /67

P 232159Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2006

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 5053

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PDEV, PGOV, CA
SUBJ: WESTERN INUIT ASK FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR
SEPARATE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT

REF: OTTAWA 4968

1. CANADIAN BROADCASTING COMPANY (CBC) REPORTED DEC 23
THAT THE COMMUNITY OF ORIGINAL PEOPLES' ENTITLEMENT
(COPE) IS NOW URGING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SETTLE THE
WESTERN INUIT LAND CLAIM SEPARATELY AND SOON. ACCORDING
TO NEWS ITEM, IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGREES TO THIS
PROPOSAL, SETTLEMENT COULD BE FORTHCOMING BY SUMMER.
COPE ENVISAGES A SETTLEMENT BASED UPON THE ORIGINAL
WESTERN INUIT "TAPIRISAT" (BROTHERHOOD) CLAIM PRESENTED
IN FEBRUARY, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN.

2. COMMENT: EMBOFF DISCUSSED CBC NEWS ITEM WITH SENIOR
DIAND OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED
IN NATIVE CLAIMS ISSUE, HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT POLITI-
CAL SITUATION IN THE MACKENZIE VALLEY AND FOLLOWS
IT CLOSELY. SOURCE INDICATED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT
SERIOUSLY COMPLICATES PROBLEMS GOC FACES IN DEALIN WITH
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CLAIMS PICTURE IN THE VALLEY. HE SAID THAT COPE PRESIDENT
SAM RADDI, IN AN APPARENT HURRIED EFFORT TO GET IN ON
ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF PROPOSED GAS PIPELINE THROUGH THE
VALLEY, HAS AT SAME TIME SHATTERED INUIT UNITY IN THE SAME
WAY THAT METIS DAMAGED DENE NATION CLAIM BY BREAKING THEIR
ALLIANCE WITH THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (NWT)

INDIAN BROTHERHOOD. RADDI'S ACTION JEOPARDIZES
"NUNAVUT", THE PROPOSED INUIT AUTONOMOUS REGION SET
FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL INUIT CLAIM PROPOSAL. IT IS NOT
CLEAR AT THIS POINT THOUGH, SOURCE SAID, WHICH COMMUNITIES
SUPPORT RADDI OR WHERE A LINE WOULD BE DRAWN BETWEEN
CLAIM MADE BY WESTERN INUIT AND EASTERN INUIT.

3. SEPARATE WESTERN INUIT CLAIM AMPLIFIES GROWING
NATIVE DISUNITY DESCRIBED BY NWT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
MEMBER FOR INUVIK, TOM BUTTERS, REPORTED IN REFTEL.

4. CONSUL GENERAL CALGARY WILL CONTACT DIAND REGIONAL
OFFICIAL IN INUVIK TO DEVELOP FURTHER BACK-
GROUND AND COMMENT ON THIS DEVELOPMENT.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLAIMS, LAND, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA05053
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760471-0628
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761217/aaaaaoed.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OTTAWA 4968
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WESTERN INUIT ASK FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR SEPARATE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT
TAGS: ENRG, PDEV, PGOV, CA, CBC, COPE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006